

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An anchoring system for a medical article comprising:  
a medical article having an elongated body and a branching site at which point the elongated body separates into two elongated bodies;  
a retainer comprising a base, a cover and an adhesive spot, the cover being pivotally coupled to the base and movable between an open position and a closed position, the cover and the base cooperating to define a channel when the cover lies in the closed position and being configured to receive at least the branching site of the medical article, and the adhesive spot being disposed upon the channel such that the adhesive spot lies in contact with the retainer and the medical article when the cover is in the closed position and inhibits motion of the medical article relative to the retainer, the retainer further comprising a latching mechanism to releasably secure the cover in the closed position upon the base.
2. The anchoring system of Claim 1, the retainer further comprising at least one retainer member projecting into the channel and arranged to engage a portion of the medical article to inhibit axial movement of the medical article through the channel.
3. The anchoring system of Claim 1 wherein the medical article further comprises a winged portion disposed proximal of the branching site.
4. The anchoring system of Claim 3 wherein the winged portion of the medical article is positioned proximal to the retainer such that when the cover is secured over the retained portion of the medical article the winged portion of the medical article is inhibited from moving distally into the channel.
5. The anchoring system of Claim 1 wherein the adhesive spot exerts a frictional force between the surface of the medical article and the surface of the channel which inhibits relative motion between the medical article and the retainer.

6. The anchoring system of Claim 1 wherein the adhesive spot exerts a transverse force between the surface of the channel and the medical article to bias the retained portion of the medical article against the channel of the retainer.

7. A retainer for securing an elongated medical article, comprising:

a base;

a cover which is attached to the base, the base and cover being configurable to surround a portion of the elongated medical article; and

a latching mechanism operable between the base and the cover to releasably secure the cover to the base, the latching mechanism including a keeper and a latch, one of the keeper and the latch being disposed upon the base and the other of the keeper and the latch being disposed upon the cover, the keeper having at least one bar capable of interengaging with at least a portion of the latch, and the latch having a receptacle which accepts at least a portion of the bar when the cover and base surround the portion of the elongated medical article, the keeper also including an operator lever that can be actuated by the fingertip of a medical attendant to deflect the bar of the keeper toward the hinge to disengage the bar from the receptacle of the latch in order to release the latch from the keeper.

8. A retainer for securing an elongated medical article having a branching site, the medical article also having a winged portion disposed proximal of the branching site, the retainer comprising:

a base;

a cover movably coupled to the base and having an open configuration and a closed configuration, the cover and the base cooperating to define a channel in the closed configuration and being configured to receive at least a portion of the medical article, the channel being dimensioned such that when the winged portion of the medical article is positioned proximal to the retainer and the cover is in the closed configuration, the winged portion of the medical article is inhibited from moving distally into the channel.

9. The retainer of Claim 8 further comprising an adhesive spot disposed upon the channel such that the adhesive spot lies in contact with the retainer and the medical article when the cover is in the closed configuration and the adhesive spot inhibits motion of the medical article relative to the retainer.

10. The retainer of Claim 8 further comprising a latching mechanism to releasably secure the cover in the closed configuration.

11. A method of releaseably anchoring an elongated medical article including a branching site onto a patient which permits the medical article to be retained in the same position relative to the patient, comprising:

- providing an anchoring device which provides an adhesive lower surface, and a retainer comprising a base, a cover, and a compressible member, the base further comprising at least a groove, and the base and the cover together forming a channel when the cover is secured in position over at least a portion of the base;

- inserting at least the branching site of the medical article into the groove;

- positioning the cover over at least a portion of the groove;

- securing the cover in a position overlying the covered portion of the groove to press a retained portion of the medical article against the compressible member to provide adhesion between the compressible member and the retained portion of the medical article; and

- securing the anchoring device to the skin of the patient via the adhesive lower surface of the anchoring device.

12. A method of releaseably anchoring an elongated medical article including a branching site onto a patient which permits the medical article to be retained in the same position relative to the patient, comprising:

- providing an anchoring device which provides an adhesive lower surface, and a retainer comprising a base, a cover, and a compressible member, the base further comprising at least a groove, and the base and the cover together forming a channel when the cover is secured in position over at least a portion of the base;

inserting at least the branching site of the medical article into the groove;  
positioning the cover over at least a portion of the groove;  
securing the cover in a position overlying the covered portion of the groove to  
press a retained portion of the medical article between the compressible member and a  
side of the channel; and  
securing the anchoring device to the skin of the patient via the adhesive lower  
surface of the anchoring device.